



NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management
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For Additional Information

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BLM Begins Planning for McGregor Range, Seeks Public Comment at “Scoping Meetings”

LAS CRUCES – The Bureau of Land Management has scheduled two public meetings to hear comments about how best to manage McGregor Range in southern Otero County, according to BLM Las Cruces Field Manager Amy Lueders.

In 1999, Congress withdrew approximately 608,000 acres of public land within McGregor Range – now the nation’s principal air defense systems training facility – and directed that within two years the BLM would update its Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA), written in 1990.

“The updated RMPA will comply with the Congressional mandate. It also will address public access concerns and changes on McGregor Range, such as new military training facilities and activities. The meetings provide early opportunity for the public to comment as we develop a new RMPA and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to addresses these new issues,” according to Lueders.

The BLM is seeking input on the planning criteria, resource concerns and development of resource management alternatives for the new plan. The process, which should take about 18 months, will be in cooperation with the U.S. Army, which is responsible for minimizing or mitigating its environmental impact on the land.

The BLM “scoping meetings” are scheduled from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. June 20 in Alamogordo at the Otero County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 1000 New York Ave., and June 21 in the BLM-Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess St. Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with displays about the range and a presentation about the planning process. Public comments at each meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

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The BLM also will receive written comments that must be postmarked no later than July 6 and addressed to: Tom Phillips, RMPA/EIS Team Leader; BLM-Las Cruces Field Office; 1800 Marquess St.; Las Cruces, NM 88005.

Once a draft RMPA/EIS is completed, it will be released for public review. During the 90-day review period, the BLM will conduct public hearings for comments on the draft document

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages about 12.8 million acres of public land in New Mexico, more than 47 million acres of federal mineral estate in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas and more than 2 million acres of American Indian mineral estate.

The BLM is responsible for managing public lands and resources to ensure multiple use and sustained yield based on long-term needs for renewable and non-renewable resources.